

eliminating pest incubation in the product especially the mangoes for gaining access to overseas markets.

4. Grant of Air Freight Subsidy for exports of floricultural items and select fresh fruits and vegetables.
5. Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.
6. Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as flowers, fresh fruits and vegetables.
7. Providing assistance in development of data base and dissemination of market information.
8. Providing assistance for setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, eliminating contamination & ensuring freedom from fungi and bacteria.
9. Double weightage is provided to the exporters from North Eastern Region for fulfilling export obligations for the purpose of granting the status of Export House, Trading House etc.
10. The minimum export obligation for the units located in Export Promotion Industrial Parks in the North East has been kept at 25% of the production as against 33% which is the norm.

Amendment of Tobacco Board Act

1564. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Tobacco Board Act to empower the Board to regulate production of tobacco;

(b) if so, by when a Bill is likely to be introduced; and

(c) the other steps proposed to help the tobacco farmers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Bill will be introduced only after the proposed amendments are finalised after inter-ministerial consultations and approved.

(c) Steps proposed to help the tobacco farmers include:

(a) Assisting farmers in obtaining crop loans from the banks.

(b) Advising the banks not to recover past crop loan advances from the tobacco farmers' sales of the first two lots put for sale at the auctions.

(c) Extending help in insuring tobacco curing barns with the Insurance Companies operating in tobacco areas.

(d) Arranging supply of inputs like genuine and approved seeds, fertilisers, irrigation equipment, pesticides, suckericides, coal, briquettes, tarpaulins, and spraying equipment to tobacco farmers.

Admissions in Masters Programme in International Trade

1565. SHRI R.N. ARYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) organises courses in Masters Programme in International Trade (EMIT) every year;

(b) if so, year-wise number of persons enrolled for the above courses during the last five years and persons belonging to the SCs/STs among them and their percentage as compared to the total number; and

(c) the reasons, if adequate number of persons have not been enrolled for the above courses?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.